

City of Tuscaloosa

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MEDIA NOTIFICATION
June 23, 2009

Office of the Mayor
205-248-5001

The City Mourns the Loss of Bert Bank

Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox has ordered that the City flag be lowered to half staff until Thursday in recognition of former Alabama State Senator Bert Bank. Mr. Bank passed away Monday night.

"Today, the people of Tuscaloosa mourn the passing of Mr. Bank, but we are so very thankful to have known this man of uncommon valor and genuine compassion," Mayor Maddox said. "For most of us, surviving the Bataan Death March would have been a lasting legacy, but Mr. Bank achieved so much more for himself and our community. He lived an extraordinary life which saw him capture the American dream by founding two radio stations in Tuscaloosa and representing the people of Alabama in the state legislature. In a time and age where we are looking for hope and heroes, we can look to the life of Mr. Bank as a shining example."

City Council President Harrison Taylor added, "Mr. Bank made countless contributions to this community, and will be remembered for his leadership in moving Tuscaloosa forward."

Mr. Bank was a World War II veteran that survived the Bataan Death March. He was twice elected to the Alabama House of Representatives, and once to the state Senate. As an innovative leader in the Tuscaloosa community, Mr. Bank founded WTBC-AM and WUOA-FM radio stations, as well as the Alabama Football Network.

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